

- C1
- (d) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning said body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
  - (e) a conduit [suction tube] in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to the bottom of said canister;
  - (f) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
  - (g) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister.
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- C2
4. (Once amended) A canister according to claim 1 wherein said conduit [suction tube] is removable from said lid.
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7. (Once amended) A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids, comprising:

- C3
- (a) a canister for receiving said body fluids, comprising:
    - (i) a body having side walls and a bottom [and adapted to sealably receive a removable lid];
    - (ii) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;
    - (iii) an inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister and for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
    - (iv) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning said body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
    - (v) a conduit [suction tube] in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to the bottom of said canister;
    - (vi) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
    - (vii) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister;

- [(viii) a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said body fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level;]
- (b) a servicing unit for removing said body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:
- (i) an outlet conduit to conduct fluid from said canister;
  - (ii) a supply of cleaning fluid capable of delivery into said canister;  
[an inlet conduit for conducting cleaning fluid from a source of said cleaning fluid to said canister];
  - (iii) an inlet conduit for conducting said cleaning fluid from said supply to said canister;
  - (iv)[(iii)] a connector for detachably connecting said outlet conduit to said outlet port in said lid and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said inlet port in said lid; and
  - (v)[(iv)] a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit[; and
  - (v) means to induce a flow of cleaning fluid to said canister through said inlet conduit].

8. (Once amended) A system according to claim 7 further comprising:
- (a) a decontamination chamber in fluid communication with said outlet conduit, in which body fluid from said canister is brought into contact with a disinfecting fluid;
  - (b) a first conduit to conduct fluid from said decontamination chamber to a drain;
  - (c) a supply of disinfecting fluid capable of delivery into said decontamination chamber; [a second conduit to conduct a disinfecting fluid from a source of said disinfecting fluid into said decontamination chamber, and means to induce a flow of disinfecting fluid through said second conduit];

(d) a second conduit for conducting said disinfecting fluid from said supply to said decontamination chamber; and

(e)[(d)] a vent for venting said decontamination chamber to atmosphere.

14. (Once amended) A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids, comprising:

(a) a canister for receiving said body fluids comprising:

- (i) a body having side walls and a bottom [and adapted to receive a lid];
- (ii) a lid for covering said body;
- (iii) a first inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister;
- (iv) a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
- (v) a sprayer [spraying means] in fluid communication with said second inlet port for spraying cleaning fluid within said canister;
- (vi) a closure [means] for closing said second inlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
- (vii) an outlet port in said lid for outflow of body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
- (viii) a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet port extending into said canister; and
- (ix) a closure [means] for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and

(b) an apparatus for removing body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:

- (i) first fluid conduit means to conduct fluid in said canister to a drain;
- (ii) second fluid conduit means to conduct cleaning fluid from a source of cleaning fluid to an inlet port in said canister; and
- (iii) a connector head having first and second connector tubes in fluid communication with said first and second fluid conduit means

respectively for connection to and disconnection from said outlet port and said inlet port respectively.

15. (Once amended) A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids comprising:

- 04
- (a) a canister for receiving said body fluids, comprising:
    - (i) a body having side walls and a bottom [and adapted to sealably receive a removable lid];
    - (ii) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;
    - (iii) a first inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister;
    - (iv) a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
    - (v) a closure [means] for closing said second inlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
    - (vi) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
    - (vii) a conduit [suction tube] in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to said bottom of said canister;
    - (viii) a closure [means] for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
    - (ix) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
  - (b) a servicing unit for removing said body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:
    - (i)[(ii)] an outlet conduit to conduct fluid from said canister;
    - (ii) an inlet conduit to conduct cleaning fluid from a source of said cleaning fluid into said canister;
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- (iii) a connector [means] for detachably connecting said outlet conduit to said outlet port and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said second inlet port; and
- (iv) a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit.

18. (Once amended) A system according to claim 15 wherein said servicing unit further comprises a sprayhead in fluid communication with said inlet conduit and adopted to be inserted into said canister through said second inlet port.

19. (Once amended) A system according to claim 15 further comprising:

- (a) a decontamination chamber in fluid communication with said outlet conduit, in which body fluid from said canister is brought into contact with a disinfecting fluid;
- (b) a first conduit to conduct fluid from said decontamination chamber to a drain;
- (c) a supply of disinfecting fluid capable of delivery into said decontamination chamber; [a second conduit to conduct a disinfecting fluid from a source of said disinfecting fluid into said decontamination chamber, and means for inducing a flow of disinfecting fluid through said second conduit];
- (d) a second conduit for conducting said disinfecting fluid from said supply to said decontamination chamber; and
- (e)[(d)] a vent for venting said decontamination chamber to atmosphere.

Add new claims 23 - 38 as follows:

23. A canister for receiving body fluids, comprising:

- (a) a body having side walls and a bottom;
- (b) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;
- (c) an inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister;
- (d) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning said body fluids from said canister;

- (e) a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to the bottom of said canister;
- (f) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
- (g) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister.

24.

A canister for receiving body fluids, said canister comprising:

- (a) a body having side walls and a bottom;
- (b) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;
- (c) a first inlet port in said lid for inflow of said body fluids into said canister;
- (d) a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
- (e) a sprayer in fluid communication with said second inlet port for spraying said cleaning fluid within said canister;
- (f) a closure for closing said second inlet port during said inflow of said body fluids into said canister;
- (g) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
- (h) a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to said bottom of said canister;
- (i) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
- (j) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
- (k) a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when the level of body fluids in said canister reaches a pre-determined level.

25.

A servicing unit for removing body fluids from a canister having an inlet port and an outlet port, comprising:

- (a) an outlet conduit to conduct fluids from said canister;  
(b) a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit; and  
(c) a control mechanism for controlling the application of vacuum to said canister.

26. A servicing unit according to claim 25 further comprising:

- (d) a supply of cleaning fluid capable of delivery to said canister; and  
(e) an inlet conduit to conduct said cleaning fluid from said supply to said inlet port of said canister.

27. A servicing unit according to claim 26 further comprising a connector for detachably connecting said vacuum conduit to said outlet port and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said inlet port.

28. A system according to claim 7 wherein said canister further comprises a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said body fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level.

29. A lid for covering a canister body, said lid and canister body together forming a canister for receiving fluids, said canister body having side walls and a bottom, said lid comprising:

- (a) an inlet port in said lid for inflow of fluids into said canister;  
(b) an outlet port in said lid for outflow of fluids from said canister; and  
(c) a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet port, said conduit extending to said bottom of said canister body when said lid is placed in covering relation to said canister body.

30. A lid according to claim 29 further comprising a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of fluids into said canister.

31. A lid according to claim 29 further comprising a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of fluids into said canister.

32. A lid claim according to claim 30 further comprising a sprayer in fluid communication with said second inlet port for spraying cleaning fluid within said canister.

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33. A lid according to claim 31 further comprising a check valve on said lid operatively coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level.

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34. A check valve for a canister adapted to receive fluids, said canister having a vacuum port for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing a flow of fluids into said canister, said check valve being operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level.

35. A check valve according to claim 34 wherein said check valve comprises:  
(a) a floatball operably coupled to a needle valve; and  
(b) a floatball cage for housing said floatball, said floatball cage comprising a needle valve guide for slidably retaining said needle valve.

36. A suction canister, comprising:  
(a) a chamber for receiving fluids, said chamber being partially defined by a bottom wall;  
(b) an inlet communicating with said chamber for the inflow of said fluids into said chamber;  
(c) a vacuum port communicating with said chamber for application of vacuum to said chamber;  
(d) an outlet communicating with said chamber for outflow of said fluids from said chamber; and  
(e) a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet and extending to said bottom wall of said chamber.

37. A suction canister according to claim 36, further comprising a second inlet communicating with said chamber for the inflow of said fluids into said chamber.